

Message Text

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43

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 DPW-01

SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

/057 W

----- 122291

R 111222Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9527

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, ET, SU, US

SUBJECT: RELIEF OPERATIONS IN ERITREA

REF: STATE 049035 AND 051456

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOS HAS RECENTLY APPROACHED ETHIOPIAN
CHARGE HERE RE ICRC ACCESS IN ADDIS AND ACCORDINGLY
RELUCTANT BECOME INVOLVED IN PROPOSED MULTILATERAL
EFFORT (FIRST REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

1. SAW FONMIN USEC MIRGHANI MARCH 11 AT MY
REQUEST TO REVIEW STATUS ICRC INTEREST IN ERITREAN RELIEF
OPERATIONS. DRAWING ON REFTELS, I TOLD MIRGHANI WE
CONTINUED TAKE SERIOUSLY OUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER GENEVA
CONVENTION AND WERE PLANNING DISCUSS WITH FRIENDLY
EMBASSIES IN ADDIS POSSIBILITY SOME SORT COORDINATED
APPROACH TO PMAC RE ICRC ISSUE. WE CONSIDERED APPRO-
PRIATE ACEIONS BY PMAC UNDER GENEVA CONVENTION COULD HAVE
FAVORABLE IMPACT ON PMAC'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE ABROAD.
DEPARTMENT HAD ASKED ME REVIEW THIS SITUATION WITH
MIRGHANI. ON PERSONAL BASIS, I WONDERED WHETHER
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SUDANESE EMBASSY MIGHT USEFULLY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS

EFFORT.

2. MIRGHANI BEGAN BY APOLOGIZING FOR DELAY IN RECEIVING ME. MINSTATE AHMED HAD BEEN ILL AND, IN VIEW VACANCY IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S POST, HE HAD BEEN INORDINATELY BUSY. ON ICRC ISSUE, GOS HAD BEEN APPROACHED APPROXIMATELY WEEK AGO BY ICRC THROUGH SUDANESE MISSION GENEVA. ICRC HAD SAID ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN ADDIS WAS NOT BEING GIVEN ACCESS TO SENIOR ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS AND HAD ASKED WHETHER GOS COULD FACILITATE ICRC CONTACTS. MIRGHANI HAD ACCORDINGLY CALLED IN ETHIOPIAN CHARGE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ICRC REP WOULD BE RECEIVED NORMALLY IN ADDIS. SO FAR, THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM PMAC. MIRGHANI ALSO SAID NO ICRC SUPPLIES YET MOVING THROUGH SUDAN, SINCE PMAC APPROVAL NOT YET FORTHCOMING (PARA 2 KHARTOUM 0400).

3. VIEW FOREGOING, MIRGHANI DOUBTED SUDANESE EMBASSY COULD PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN PROPOSED INITIATIVE. HE THOUGHT NUMBER OF EMBASSIES SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO PMAC IMPORTANCE NOT ALIENATING WORLD PUBLIC OPINION ON SUCH HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AS ICRC BUT "GOS AND USG ARE PROBABLY THE TWO WORST PLACED TO BE EFFECTIVE." I REITERATED THAT USG HAD CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER GENEVA CONVENTION AND WE WERE CONSEQUENTLY SEENG HOW BEST IT MIGHT BE DISCHARGED.

4. COMMENT: MIRGHANI'S REMARKS ARE FIRST NEWS WE HAVE HAD OF NEW, RECENT ICRC APPROACH TO GOS. HIS COMMENTS MAKE CLEAR THAT SUDAN WISHES MOVE WITH CAUTION ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS STAGE. WE SURMISE THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS GOS PRIORITY INTEREST IN SOME MOVEMENT ON NIMEIRI'S MEDIATION INITIATIVE (KHARTOUM 0600 - NOTAL).
BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ERITREA, GENEVA CONVENTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KHARTO00602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-1197
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750363/aaaaceoz.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 049035, 75 AND 051456
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELIEF OPERATIONS IN ERITREA
TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, ET, SU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006